

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 3, 2003

Chief Darrel Fournier called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:00pm in Room 438 of the State House, Augusta, Maine. Members present were Michael Albert, Jack Berry, Jay Bradshaw, Representative Thomas Bull, John Cannon, John Dean, Representative Robert Duplessie, Chief Darrel Fournier, Albert Godfrey, Sr., Harty Norris, Chief Jethro Pease, David Wacker, Leslie Wiles, Steve Willis and Susan Pinette (staff). Members absent were Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Edward Johnston, Randy Keep and Geoffrey Maker. Art Cleaves, Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency, attended as guest of the Fire Commission.

A motion by Steve Willis, seconded by Al Godfrey, to accept the minutes of January 6, 2003. The motion passed unanimously.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Recruitment/ Retention: A draft report from Penflex, Inc. was distributed to members at the January meeting. Members agreed to read the draft report and suggest changes and/or additions.

A motion by Al Godfrey, seconded by Mike Albert, to accept Penflex, Inc.'s draft report as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Training Facilities: The Training Facilities committee cancelled their February 3rd meeting and rescheduled to April 7th.

The Fire Commission discussed the first Maine Fire Service Day at the State House and agreed it was very successful. Members discussed plans to review the day and suggest improvements for 2004. Members want to include presentation of the colors by firefighters and more interactive displays in the Hall of Flags at future Fire Service Days. Members also discussed payment of the cost of the day's catering. Ken's Catering of Augusta provided assorted pastries and coffee in the morning and a lunch of sandwiches, chips, dessert and drinks at noon. The total cost was \$2100 and will be divided among the attendees of the Maine Fire Service Day.

Fire Commission members agreed to host a Legislative reception at the Ground Round in Augusta on Tuesday, March 11 from 4-8pm. Members discussed last year's reception and the positive response from legislators.

Members learned the Legislature's Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee had scheduled an informational meeting on Wednesday, February 5th. Chief Fournier agreed to represent the Fire Commission.

The next item of business discussed by the Fire Commission was the report to the Legislature. Members discussed the following changes to the draft report:

- The section on health care should include language that the Fire Commission will be seeking restoration of funding for a health care study. Members discussed asking for \$80,000 and the reality of receiving funding from this Legislature this year. Members agreed that it was crucial to their mission and Maine's Fire Service to request funding for this important study.
- Add a section on the funding for Maine Fire Training and Education. Steve Willis will forward language to staff to include in the report.

Members learned that Senator Christine Savage resigned her position on the Fire Commission effective immediately. Present membership of the Fire Commission stands at eighteen members. Members discussed possible candidates for the open seats and proposed legislation to add two seats (MEMS and MEMA) to the Fire Commission. Members also discussed reviewing the Fire Commission's bylaws. Members agreed to form a committee to review the present bylaws and to make recommendations to the Fire Commission at a future meeting. Al Godfrey, John Cannon and Art Cleaves were appointed to serve on the Bylaws Committee.

Fire Commission members were informed that on Thursday, February 20th at 9am in Room 101B, Cross State Office Building, a meeting with the federal delegation would be held to discuss fire service issues and needs. Members highlighted the issues they wanted discussed:

- 1- Fire Act Grant and thank the delegation for their support
- 2- Homeland defense and the lack of federal funds reaching the local fire service
- 3- Recruitment and retention
- 4- Health care
- 5- Central training facility

Members agreed to meet at 8am on February 20th before the meeting with the federal delegation.

Fire Commission members were reminded of the reception for former Senator and Fire Commission chair William O'Gara. The Fire Commission will be presenting Senator O'Gara with a fire helmet in appreciation of his contribution to Maine's fire service. Members suggested obtaining photos from the reception to include in the annual report and future newsletters.

Steve Willis distributed a draft of the instructions and nomination form for the "Best Practice Award". Members were asked to review for discussion at the March meeting.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chief Fournier adjourned the meeting at 2:25pm.

The Maine Fire Protection Services Commission has scheduled the following dates:

Monday, March 3rd	Fire Commission meeting 1:00pm
Tuesday, March 11th	Legislative Reception Ground Round, Augusta 4-8:00pm
Monday, April 7th	Training Facilities Committee 10:00am
Monday, April 7th	Fire Commission meeting 1:00pm Election of officers

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette